

Congress of the United States
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For Immediate Release

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Legislation Signed to Rename Patchogue PO in Honor of Lt. Michael Murphy
Bishop, Clinton, Schumer Applaud Recognition for Local Hero

Patchogue—Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer and Congressman Tim Bishop applauded the enactment of legislation to rename the United States Post Office in Patchogue as the “Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Post Office Building.” Lt. Murphy, a US Navy SEAL was killed last year at age 29 while serving as part of a secret reconnaissance mission in Afghanistan.

The legislation, originally introduced in the House of Representatives by Bishop, passed that chamber unanimously in May. It then was introduced by Clinton and Schumer in the Senate, where it passed on July 24, before being signed into law by the President on August 2.

“I am so pleased that we were able to get this done for Lt. Murphy’s family and the community who loved him. The community and now the Congress has come together to create this lasting tribute to Lt. Murphy. He was a true local hero and I am pleased that we can honor his memory in this way,” said Senator Clinton.

“Lt. Michael Murphy epitomized bravery and patriotism but his life was tragically cut short in Afghanistan while defending our country,” said Senator Schumer. “Having already been awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star, it is only fitting that the post office in Lt. Murphy’s hometown will now bear the name of this great American hero who will be honored in the Patchogue community forever.”

“Lt. Michael Murphy was loved by Patchogue,” Bishop said. “This honor can never make up for his loss, but it is a small way our community can say thank you to Michael Murphy and his family.”

Lt. Murphy was reported missing on June 28, 2005, during Operation Red Wing, a reconnaissance mission in the mountains of Afghanistan in search of Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgents. A four-man commando team of Navy SEALs was dropped off in a forested area of the country’s eastern mountain border with Pakistan. The group came under immediate attack from insurgents. Calls for help brought rescue helicopters which were met with immediate insurgent fire. One of the helicopters was downed by an explosive device, killing all 16 troops aboard.

At Patchogue-Medford High School on Long Island, Michael was a National Honor Society student and a varsity football athlete. He worked as a lifeguard during his summer vacations. After graduating high school, he attended Penn State University, where he majored in political science and excelled academically. Michael decided shortly after graduating college that he would fulfill his passion to join the Navy SEALs, a task that his parents warned would be formidable. Michael never hesitated, qualified for and completed the rigorous training requirements, and served as a Navy SEAL with distinction. In recognition of his courage and sacrifice, Lt. Murphy was honored posthumously with the Purple Heart and Silver Star.

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